



International Federation of
Library Associations and Institutions

IFLA GREEN LIBRARY AWARD 2019



**SÁNDOR PETŐFI TOWN LIBRARY'S GREEN ROAD
IN ART-RELIC'S ENVIRONMENT**

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Green environment of Sándor Petőfi Town Library

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Operation, green design approach on the
inside of Sándor Petőfi Town Library

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GREEN ENVIRONMENT

"Behind me is the past's
beautiful blue forest,
Before me is the future's
beautiful green plantings;
It's always far away, and it still
doesn't leave me,
I cannot reach it, though it's
always near.

Thus I wander on the
highway,
Which is bare, wild,
I wander undismayed
In the everlasting present.

(Sándor Petőfi:
Behind me is the past...)





GREEN ENVIRONMENT

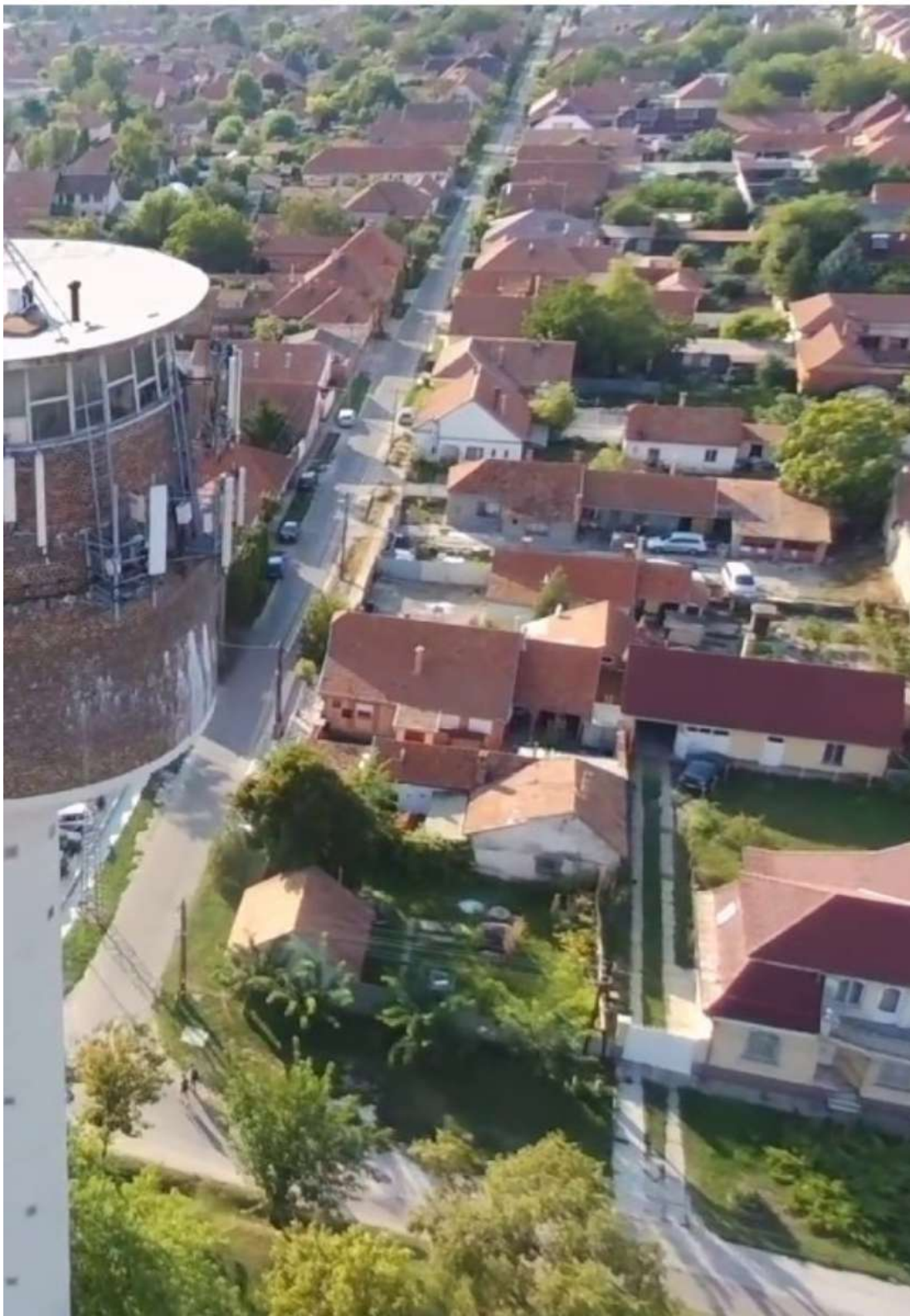
Our library links treasures from the past with the wonders of the future just like a bridge does in case of two river banks. It is capable of creating a calming atmosphere while motivating users seeking mental recreation by offering programmes prompting vivid activities. Our institution being a fundamental one in an information and knowledge based society provides citizens via its services with a wide range of information necessary to be able to become more educated, civilised, cultured and enjoy themselves.



GREEN ENVIRONMENT



- Hungary is situated in Central Europe in the middle of the Carpathian Basin.
 - Area covered: 93 028 square kilometres with a population of almost ten million.
 - It is a medium-sized state member of the European Union with a population of a similar rank.
 - Official language: Hungarian. Its capital and most populous city is Budapest which is considered a metropolis
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GREEN ENVIRONMENT

- The town of Kiskunfélegyháza is located in Bács-Kiskun county in the Southern Great Plain region.
 - It has a population of 30.000 inhabitants making it the third largest settlement of the county.
 - Our town is an important educational town with several high schools and technical schools as well.
 - It is also a hometown to notable writers Sándor Petőfi and Ferenc Móra that got its country town rank in 1774.
 - Sándor Petőfi Town Library is located right in the heart of town.
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GREEN ENVIRONMENT



The execution of the **Green Town Project** in Kiskunfélegyháza started in 2019. Its aim is to develop a modern town centre worthy to be cited as a 21st century one. This development covers a reconstruction of the green areas in the centre of town and creating new active recreational ones as well. The town centre shall get a new façade with new paving, street lighting and greenery along with modern playgrounds indicating the “Félegyháza renews” project. It is centred on people meeting up and building communities.



GREEN ENVIRONMENT



- „Greenification” covers 27 hectares in town.
- One of the most well-known and treasured sights of Kiskunfélegyháza the sycamore alley in Kossuth street shall receive a preservational, healthcare, conservational, aesthetical and safety-protectional snipping and trimming.
- Nearly all town institutions are going to be equipped with solar panels.

GREEN ENVIRONMENT



- „Vasas” sports field is going to be rebuilt transforming it into a sports and recreational centre with new playgrounds, a fitness park, basketball court and running track.
- At Petőfi Housing Estates the community centre shall be renewed thus broadening the variety of available sporting facilities for families with benches and tables providing an option for quality recreation.
- In Kossuthváros suburban area commercial landscapes shall receive new looks and a pavilion is going to be erected to serve the area’s vivid cultural life that can also be used as a stage.



The library then...

- Our library is a nice, typical classicistic building located in the centre of town.
- The Swan House is a valuable monument both in terms of architecture and literary history.
- In 1952 our predecessor, the People's Library was placed in part of the present building that was later listed as an art relic monument.
- The library was finally placed here in 1965 on 365 square metres. Thanks to this decision the town leadership chose a cost-saving solution by utilising the old wing of the building.
- "Let libraries be those places where readers of all classes and ranks may find their food for thought."

GREEN ENVIRONMENT



...and now

- In November 2006 the building of the new wing started and in 2008 the art relic monument was completely restored. All doors and windows with metal frames were replaced with ones made entirely of wood.



- The whole building complex was presented in 2008 comprised of a total floor space of 2000 square metres.





GREEN ENVIRONMENT

- The adult loan section, the journal reader section and reading-room along with the Children's Section were all placed in the new wing of the building. The Local Documents Collection, the Internet Section, the Media Collection and the Junior Section can all be found in the restored Swan House. Its Function Room is used for literature conventions, book launch events, and art exhibitions as well.

- Our collection contains 100.000 documents.
- Each year 4.000 reader members look up our library.
- We have 157.000 guests online and in person.
- In 2018 14.000 guests participated in 500 events.

GREEN ENVIRONMENT



Our park outside

- Prior to the building complex presentation the area behind the library was greened with flowers, shrubs and cherry plum trees (*Prunus cerasifera*) planted.
- In 2015 notable natural historian Ottó Herman's statue was presented in the library garden during the Spring Flower Festival.

GREEN ENVIRONMENT



Our park outside

- By the initiative of the Ornithological Club (Friends of Birds) info boards were placed to popularize different species of birds.
- Nest boxes for birds created by children were placed onto the trees in the library garden.

OPERATION, GREEN DESIGN AND APPROACH - ON THE INSIDE

Our library's energetic approach

- Reading rooms are light and spacious with an emphasis on natural ventilation and lighting.
- Copy papers in our offices use are reused on their other side during note taking, and while creating various works of art on our arts and crafts courses.
- We take extreme care of reducing the use of copy papers via using the internal communication network and e-mailing system and by printing on both sides of papers.
- We do scanning instead of printing.
- In case of acquiring new office machines and electronic equipment we always choose energy-saving models.
- We always have our equipment and machinery repaired, if possible, and supply our printers and photocopiers with refillable cartridges.



OPERATION, GREEN DESIGN AND APPROACH - ON THE INSIDE



Our Library's energetic approach

- At Christmas we always take saving trees into consideration thus creating a Christmas tree out of books.
- We also collect plastic bottle caps to raise money for the therapy of a mentally retarded child.
- We put used batteries into a separate donation box.
- We buy and use green, natural cleaning supplies. In 2018 we replaced conventional light bulbs with energy-saving ones.
- From January 2019 on we have had the opportunity to collect rubbish produced in our institution selectively.

OPERATION, GREEN DESIGN AND APPROACH - ON THE INSIDE



Our library – green on the inside

- In our library's green interior there are a lot of green plants making it cosier, more comfortable and homelike.
- We are growing a lemon tree inside our library in the cold and cool months and we put it outside during the warm and hot months.

OPERATION, GREEN DESIGN AND APPROACH - ON THE INSIDE



Our library – green on the inside

- We started greening our internal yard two years ago thanks to the garden plants received from our reader members.
- We have had garden furniture made out of pallets.
- On the library terrace bird tables await our hungry little feathery visitors.

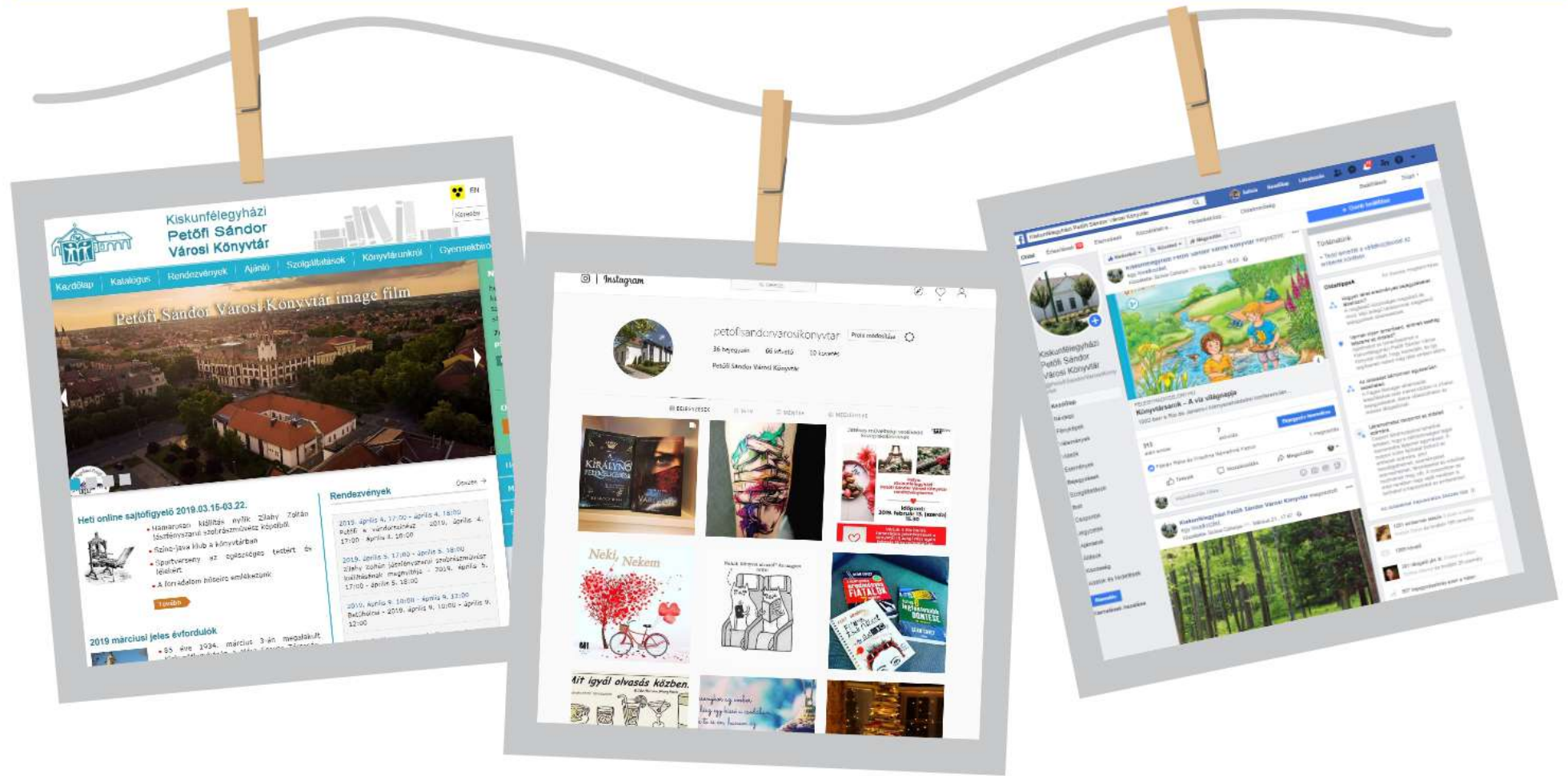




Our colleagues' environmentally conscious approach

- Our colleagues prefer to commute to work on foot or by bicycle as opposed to driving a car or using means of mass transport.
- We usually all choose to use the stairs instead of using the lift (elevator).
- We collect documents related to sustainable development, local natural values and environmental protection which help shape eco-friendly approach within the local community.
- Our director presented the library's eco-friendly initiatives sharing local best practices in the national competence conference in March 2018 as well as presenting them in the "Let's go green" librarian's professional day in Szekszárd in September 2018.

OPERATION, GREEN DESIGN AND APPROACH - ON THE INSIDE



Our colleagues' environmentally conscious approach

- Our library is present online as well; it has its own, multilingual website along with an official Facebook page and Instagram account. Our reader members receive our monthly programme leaflet via online newsletters hence saving paper.
- On our website and social sites we regularly share “green” content.



OPERATION, GREEN DESIGN AND APPROACH - ON THE INSIDE



Our colleagues' environmentally conscious approach

- We prefer to use recycled paper for office purposes and aim to acquire durable writing utensils and office supplies and accessories made of natural materials.
- During the autumn eight years ago we started collecting used, unwanted children's books, toys and clothes that we are going to hand over to the residents of the Transitional Home for Families in a ceremonial event this December.
- Our used books are not sent to the shredder but our visitors may purchase them or take the copies put in trunks home for free.



OPERATION, GREEN DESIGN AND APPROACH - ON THE INSIDE



Our colleagues' environmentally conscious approach

- Each year we participate in the For a Flowery Fényháza tender.
- Our library also supported the release of the Flowery Calendar of 2017.
- For several years we have set up our booth during the Spring and Autumn Flower Festival held in town.
- Our library as well as all our colleagues is committed to making the institution green thus doing their jobs keeping a conscious mind while delivering tasks.



GREEN ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES



Ornithological Club (Friends of Birds)

- The Ornithological Club (Friends of Birds) was formed in April 2011 by a retired grammar school headmaster and a group of enthusiastic children.

- We turned the park next to our library into a bird-friendly garden by planting trees.

- We also received the honorary title 'Bird-friendly library'.

- Our library is a member of BirdLife Hungary Association that occasionally holds its general meetings in our institution.

- In the Children's Section an info board about birds and nature awaits our child readers and guests.



GREEN ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES



Ornithological Club (Friends of Birds)

- Our nature-loving reader members meet up several times a year in order to organise useful programmes for themselves.
- By cooperating with local schools and kindergartens we also organise exhibitions, quiz competitions and even trips along with creating nest boxes with the help of children.
- In significant local events we popularise the love of birds, animals and nature in general as well.



GREEN ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES

Environmentally conscious camp

- 2017 marks the start of our “We are on the green track” eco-experience camp for middle-school/junior high-school pupils (aged 10-14).
- They can get intimately familiar with the principles of the sustainable life style.
- They can gain an all-round idea and practical experience about the environmentally conscious lifestyle.
- They can get to know local farmers and stockbreeders.
- They can get familiar with local businesses and enterprises that deal with this town’s environmentally conscious activities. These businesses and enterprises are paid a visit by bicycle.



GREEN ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES



Environmentally conscious camp

- The children can participate in arts and crafts activities by drawing, creating – and recycling materials.
- They can also visit exhibitions and museums where educational courses are used to enhance children's competences.
- The last day of the camp ends with a trip usually spent in nature.

GREEN ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES



Alphabet Nursery („Betűbölcső”)

- In 2009 thanks to a tender we became a baby-friendly library. The Mums' Club (Club for Mums and their babies) run in the Children's Library was named Alphabet Nursery.
- Twice a month new mothers get a chance to meet up.
- We offer them informative lectures and activities in various fields such as bringing up children, educating them to become environmentally conscious, recycling nappies and pieces of clothing and using eco-friendly laundry detergents.

GREEN ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES



Courses for children

- Courses and exhibitions offer a great opportunity to call the attention of children ranging from the youngest age up to high school students to environmental protection and natural values, climate change and sustainability and thus educate them.

- In our courses for schoolchildren we usually create works of art from recycling domestic waste.

GREEN ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES



Courses for children

- On Arbour Day and on World Water Day we organise playful courses, competitions and exhibitions.
- We also get children town's kindergartens and schools involved in our programmes.
- We set up our booth during the No Car Day in town as well.



GREEN ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES



„Geographical Free University”

- Since 1968, for more than 50 years, that is, we have regularly organised informative lectures and talks on geographical subjects entitled “Geographical Free University”.
- The lectures and talks come into existence through the aid of the National Cultural Fund of Hungary.
- Among the lecturers there have been and are biology and geography majors, globetrotters, environmentalists and alpinists as well.
- The lectures and talks are attended by a great amount of people of all ages.

GREEN ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES

ReadingYou Little Free Library (OlvasLak)

- In 2015 we joined the international “Take one, Leave one Library” movement.

- Students from a local school created the tiny house-shaped boxes called ReadingYou Little Free Libraries (**OlvasLakok**).

- These tiny house-shaped boxes functioning as honesty libraries were placed at different parts of town; in the outer garden of the library, at the bus station, at the local swimming pool and in a park nearby.



GREEN ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES



ReadingYou Little Free Library (OlvasLak)

- People can place used and unwanted, read through books into these tiny house-shaped boxes.

- Our library also fills them up with books received from readers or culled because of being unneeded (instead of shredding them).

FUTURE GREEN GOALS AND PLANS



- In 2018 the Eco Workteam was formed by library staff. We determined to turn our eco-friendly approach and activities environmentally even more conscious.

GREEN ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES

PLANS FOR 2019

- Creating an eco-corner inside the library with a living, breathing green wall with plants, recycled natural (wooden) furniture and a selection of books and periodicals for enthusiasts and lovers of the issue.
- We are going to reinforce our staff's commitment for sustainability further on.
- We are going to organise a structured eco-week on Earth Day.
- We are also going to start an online game for visitors on our website to calculate their ecological footprint.
- We are offering language, psychological and art courses and classes for two years for underprivileged citizens financed by an EU tender.
- We are shielding the library's inner yard.
- We perform scheduled maintenance and redecoration of our library being "fine managers" of the institution.
- We also aim to mediate green info to citizens and to draw attention to green issues by taking our social responsibility into account.



GREEN ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES



Our motto, based on Cicero, is the following:
"If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need."

